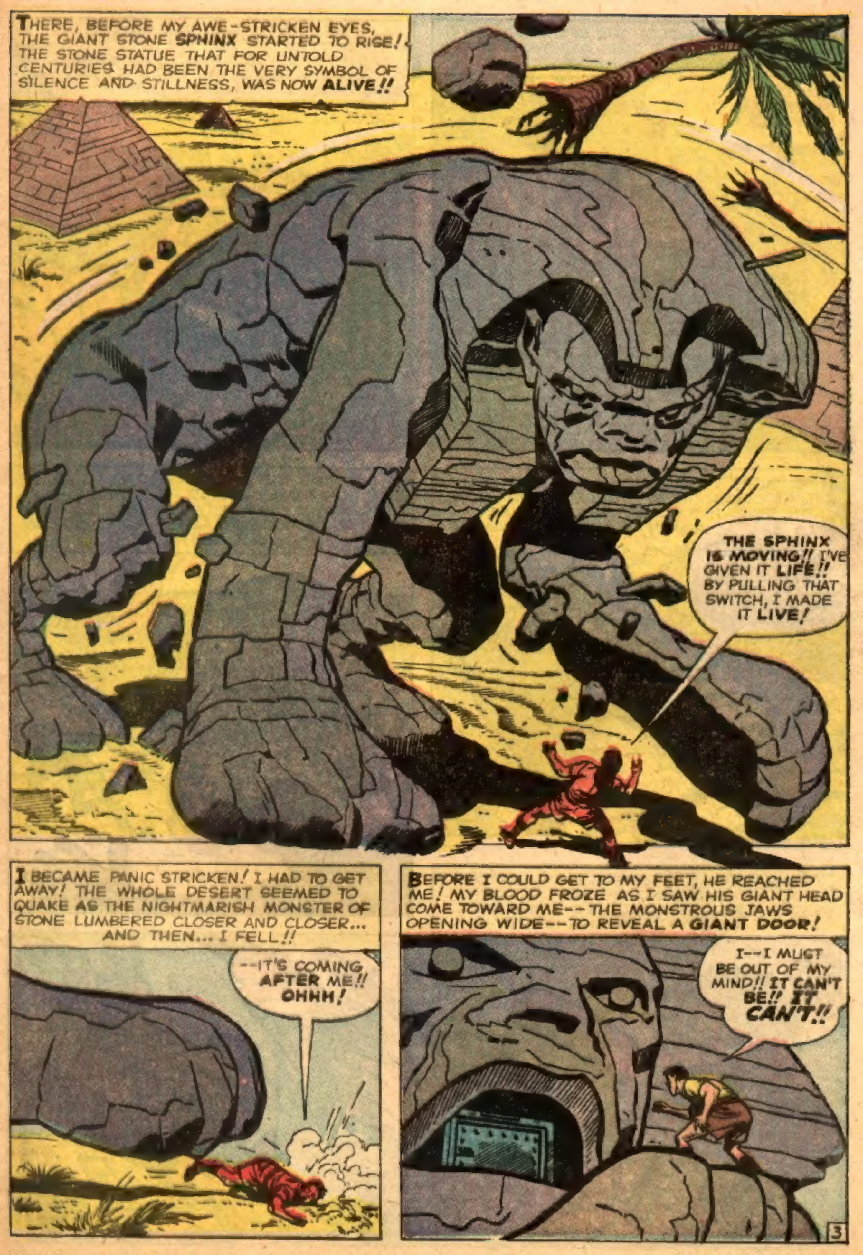
IND.
JOURNEY INTO
MYSTERY
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
59 JULY
10c
"I UNLEASHED SHAGG UPON THE WORLD!"
WHY DO THEY KEEP TRYING TO RESIST SHAGG?? ONLY A MIRACLE CAN STOP HIS ATTACK!!
WHY DON'T WE SURRENDER! NO ONE CAN DEFEAT THE MONSTER! ALL MANKIND IS HELPLESS BEFORE SHAGG!

I UNLEASHED
SHAGG
UPON THE WORLD!
KIRBY

IT WAS ONLY LAST MONTH! ACROSS THE BURNING DESERT SANDS, AN ARAB RAN FRANTICALLY... DESPERATELY...
AIIEE! IT IS ACCURSED! IT WILL DESTROY US!
WHAT IS ACCURSED? OF WHAT DO YOU SPEAK?
THE SPHINX! BY THE BEARD OF ALLAH, I HAVE SEEN IT MOVE! THE SPHINX IS... ALIVE!!
UPON HEARING THE NEWS, HIS TRIBE THOUGHT THE ARAB MAD --AND WHO COULD BLAME THEM? HOW COULD THEY HAVE POSSIBLY DREAMT THE TRUTH ABOUT THE GREAT STONE IMAGE THAT HAD BEEN IN THE DESERT FOR COUNTLESS AGES, AND WHOSE ORIGIN WAS ONE OF THE GREAT MYSTERIES OF ALL TIME!!
I MYSELF WOULD NEVER HAVE LEARNED THE AWESOME... DEADLY SECRET OF THE SPHINX IF I HADN'T UNEARTHED THOSE NEARBY RUINS ON THAT FATEFUL DAY...
THESE RUINS HAVE BEEN HIDDEN HERE FOR CENTURIES! IF THAT LAST SAND-STORM HADN'T UNCOVERED THEM, THEY MIGHT HAVE BEEN HIDDEN FOREVER! THEY ARE THE DISCOVERY OF THE CENTURY!
THEN SUDDENLY MY EYE CAUGHT IT... STANDING THERE AMID THE ANCIENT RUINS...
THAT THING -- IT LOOKS LIKE A MECHANICAL KIND OF CONTROL PANEL! BUT WHAT'S IT DOING HERE? HOW DID IT GET HERE?
I WENT OVER TO THE PANEL AND EXAMINED IT! IT WAS DIFFERENT FROM ANY I'D EVER SEEN BEFORE...
I WONDER IF THIS LEVER ACTUALLY CONNECTS TO ANYTHING?
I PULLED THE SWITCH AND IMMEDIATELY HEARD THE NOISE! THEN I LOOKED UP AND I SAW IT -- THE INCREDIBLE -- THE UNBELIEVABLE...
HUM-M-M-M
NO! IT CAN'T BE! IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
2


THERE, BEFORE MY AWE-STRICKEN EYES, THE GIANT STONE SPHINX STARTED TO RISE! THE STONE STATUE THAT FOR UNTOLD CENTURIES HAD BEEN THE VERY SYMBOL OF SILENCE AND STILLNESS, WAS NOW ALIVE!!
THE SPHINX IS MOVING!! I'VE GIVEN IT LIFE!! BY PULLING THAT SWITCH, I MADE IT LIVE!
I BECAME PANIC STRICKEN! I HAD TO GET AWAY! THE WHOLE DESERT SEEMED TO QUAKE AS THE NIGHTMARISH MONSTER OF STONE LUMBERED CLOSER AND CLOSER... AND THEN... I FELL!!
--IT'S COMING AFTER ME!! OHHH!
BEFORE I COULD GET TO MY FEET, HE REACHED ME! MY BLOOD FROZE AS I SAW HIS GIANT HEAD COME TOWARD ME-- THE MONSTROUS JAWS OPENING WIDE--TO REVEAL A GIANT DOOR!
I--I MUST BE OUT OF MY MIND!! IT CAN'T BE!! IT CAN'T!!
3

I WAS HURLED THROUGH THE OPENING DOOR--SWOOPED UP INTO THE DANK DARKNESS OF THE MONSTER'S HULK!

I'M STILL ALIVE--I'M **INSIDE**--INSIDE OF **WHAT?**

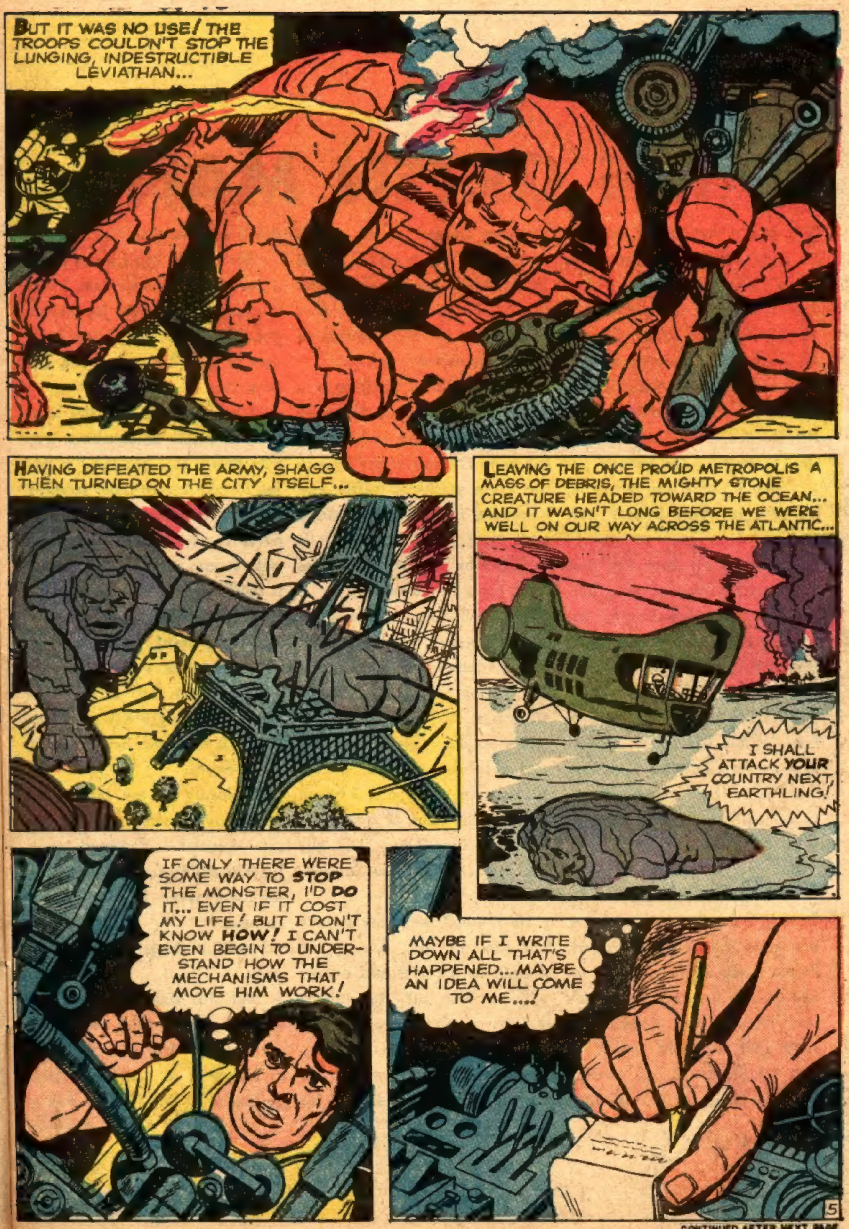
AND THEN CAME THE VOICE...

EARTHLING--HEAR ME! I AM **SHAGG**--WARRIOR FROM THE THIRD GALAXY!! FOR AGES, I HAVE BEEN IN YOUR DESERT ABSORBING INFORMATION FROM ALL PARTS OF YOUR PRIMITIVE PLANET!!

FOR AGES I HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR THAT LEVER TO BE PULLED!! AND NOW... THE TIME HAS COME! **SHAGG LIVES AGAIN! EARTH IS DOOMED!**

BY THE TIME THE STONE-BEAST REACHED THE COAST OF FRANCE, I HAD FOUND A SMALL PLASTIC WINDOW THRU WHICH I COULD SEE THE PANIC-RIDDEN MASSES FLEEING FROM OUR PATH...

IT WASN'T LONG BEFORE THE MONSTROUS SHAGG HAD SMASHED HIS WAY TO PARIS WHERE A BATTLE-HARDENED ARMY STOOD READY TO OPPOSE HIM!!!


BUT IT WAS NO USE! THE TROOPS COULDN'T STOP THE LUNGING, INDESTRUCTIBLE LEVIATHAN...
HAVING DEFEATED THE ARMY, SHAGG THEN TURNED ON THE CITY ITSELF...
LEAVING THE ONCE PROUD METROPOLIS A MASS OF DEBRIS, THE MIGHTY STONE CREATURE HEADED TOWARD THE OCEAN... AND IT WASN'T LONG BEFORE WE WERE WELL ON OUR WAY ACROSS THE ATLANTIC...
I SHALL ATTACK YOUR COUNTRY NEXT, EARTHLING!
IF ONLY THERE WERE SOME WAY TO STOP THE MONSTER, I'D DO IT... EVEN IF IT COST MY LIFE! BUT I DON'T KNOW HOW! I CAN'T EVEN BEGIN TO UNDERSTAND HOW THE MECHANISMS THAT MOVE HIM WORK!
MAYBE IF I WRITE DOWN ALL THAT'S HAPPENED... MAYBE AN IDEA WILL COME TO ME....
5
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THE GREEN MAN

IT was a hot sticky summer night when I stopped in to Barney's for a cool beer before I went home. It was a small out of the way place, and not apt to be too crowded even on a night such as this. Barney kept it only because he wanted something to do. He didn't need money, just didn't want to let himself get too idle. Most of the boys who dropped in knew Barney well and vice-versa.

I ordered my beer and was passing idle chit-chat with Barney just from something to do. I hadn't been in very long, when Barney nodded at the door, saying, "Oh-oh. Don't look now."

Through the back mirror in front of the bar I saw a small thin nervous looking man walk into Barney's, blinking his eyes to get used to the dim interior.

Barney's voice was low so it wouldn't carry to the stranger. "Was in here about an hour ago. Raving to me about some planet, and green men and radioactiviy. A nut if you ask me, but harmless enough it seems. Think he's just looking for someone to stake him to a few drinks. If you want a laugh, go ahead."

I was thinking it over when someone tugged at my elbow and a low voice said, "You'll listen, won't you Mac? You've got to. None of these fellows will believe me. But somebody's got to! Somebody's got to!"

Barfly or not, there was a desperate urgency in his voice and a pleading look in his burning eyes. The rest of the boys in the room snickered softly and winked at me behind the stranger's back. Well why not? It wouldn't be the first time I was stuck for a few drinks.

"Sure I'll listen," I said, leading him over to one of the small tables, at the same time motioning Barney to get us a couple of drinks.

We sat down and almost immediately the stranger started talking, and as he did, I began to think the same as the others who had heard him. The guy was nuts. But it was an interesting story.

He fondled the drink Barney had brought him, looked me straight in the eyes and began:

"You, like all the others, probably won't believe me. Most of them didn't listen five minutes. Said I was nuts." He laughed mirthlessly, sipped his drink and went on.

"Six months ago I was a pilot, a test pilot for Uncle Sam. I was up testing the newest Jet they've got, the XL-70, the fastest baby they've got. It's some boat, believe me.

"I took her up and she handled as nicely as anything I've ever flown, so I decided I'm going to take her 10 miles straight up. The boys in charge would never consent to this, but there wasn't much they could do about it from the ground.

"It was lovely up there, the sun a big orange ball, stars all over the place even though it was daylight on earth. The whole atmosphere was purplish-black. It was like being in another world.

"Suddenly to my left I see something moving at a terrific rate of speed. It passes me as if I was standing still, and I'm doing over seven hundred miles an hour."

I said nothing — it was his story.

"But this thing is travelling horizontal so it rules out meteors and anything else. I decide to follow it as long as I can. Believe it or not Mac, it was a

CONTINUED

BUT BY THE TIME SHAGG APPEARED IN NEW YORK HARBOR, I STILL COULD DO NOTHING BUT WITNESS THE RESULTS OF HIS MAD RAMPAGE!
WE EMPTIED THOSE BUILDINGS JUST IN TIME! HE'S HERE!
SOON MY HEART SANK AS I SAW THE WORLD'S GREATEST CITY REDUCED TO RUINS! AND AS HE WATCHED THE PEOPLE FLEE, SHAGG ANNOUNCED TRIUMPHANTLY--
FOOLS! WHY DO YOU FLEE? NO PLACE IS SAFE! MY FELLOW WARRIORS WILL FIND YOU!
AND INSIDE SHAGG...
FELLOW WARRIORS??? YOU MEAN THERE ARE OTHERS ON EARTH BESIDE YOU?!!
OF COURSE... THAT WAS THE PLAN! FOR CENTURIES I'VE SENT INFORMATION ABOUT EARTH BACK TO MY OWN PLANET... AND NOW THAT THEY ARE READY, MY RACE HAS COME AND FREED ME, AND THEY ARE DESTROYING YOUR MISSILE BASES AND ATOMIC STOCKPILES!
B-BUT YOUR RACE DIDN'T FREE YOU! I'M THE ONE WHO FREED YOU-- ACCIDENTALLY!
WHAT!! YOU SET ME FREE?!! YOU FOOL--NO HUMAN WAS SUPPOSED TO FIND THAT LEVER!!! YOU'VE RUINED EVERYTHING!! I THOUGHT THE INVASION FROM THE THIRD GALAXY HAD BEGUN!! I THOUGHT MY FELLOW WARRIORS HAD BROUGHT ME BACK TO LIFE!!
I CANNOT CONQUER AN ENTIRE WORLD BY MYSELF--NOT WHILE YOU HAVE NUCLEAR WEAPONS!! I MUST WAIT FOR THE OTHERS! BUT I'VE ALREADY BEGUN-- HOW CAN I STOP NOW?! WAIT!! I KNOW-- I KNOW HOW WE CAN YET WIN!!
6

COSMO-GAMMA ELECTRO-MAGNETIC WAVES! THAT'S THE ANSWER! THE ONE FORCE I CAN USE TO REPAIR ALL THAT I'VE DAMAGED! AND THE ONE FORCE THAT WILL MAKE HUMANS FORGET THE EVENTS OF THE LAST FEW HOURS!

THEN, IN A FEW MOMENTS BEFORE I LOST CONSCIOUSNESS, I SAW THE MOST FANTASTIC SPECTACLE OF MY LIFE! BEFORE MY VERY EYES, A WHOLE CITY WAS AGAIN RISING! STRANGE, POWERFUL, ELECTRO-MAGNETIC WAVES, GENERATED BY SHAGG, WERE MAKING EVERYTHING NORMAL AGAIN!

CRACK!

AND THEN I PASSED OUT... I DRIFTED INTO A DEEP, STRANGE SLEEP...

AND WHEN I AWAKENED, I REMEMBERED NOTHING OF WHAT HAD HAPPENED...

I-I MUST HAVE FALLEN ASLEEP! FUNNY--LAST THING I REMEMBER IS SEEING SOME RUINS HERE! BUT I MUST'VE BEEN MISTAKEN! THERE'S NOTHING HERE EXCEPT THE DESERT... AND THE ANCIENT SPHINX!

AND THAT'S THE WAY IT WOULD HAVE REMAINED IF I HADN'T LOOKED THRU MY NOTEBOOK! FOR ON THOSE PAGES I FOUND THIS WHOLE INCREDIBLE STORY! DID IT REALLY HAPPEN?? IS THE SPHINX ACTUALLY AN ALIEN CREATURE WAITING TO ATTACK US??

OR WAS IT ONLY A FIGMENT OF MY IMAGINATION ... SOMETHING I WROTE DOWN IN A MOMENT OF MADNESS?? I DON'T KNOW WHICH IT IS, BUT EVER SINCE THAT DAY, ONE THOUGHT SPINS 'ROUND IN MY BRAIN--ONE THOUGHT I CAN NEVER ERASE!!

WHAT IF IT'S TRUE... WHAT-IF-IT'S-REALLY TRUE??

THE END

I WAS TRAPPED IN HORROR HOUSE!

IRON MASK
THESE WAX FIGURES... THEY— THEY SEEM TO BE--ALIVE!! BUT THERE'S SOMETHING MORE HERE! THERE'S SOME INHUMAN FORCE THAT LURKS IN THIS HOUSE--WAITING TO DESTROY ME! I CAN FEEL IT--ALL AROUND ME!!
CAPTAIN KIDD
DO NOT TOUCH
T-725

IT BEGAN AT WHAT SEEMED LIKE THE END FOR ME--THE LAST MILE DOWN DEATH ROW!
ATTA BOY, JOE! DON'T BREAK DOWN! SHOW 'EM YOU CAN TAKE IT!
S'LONG, JOE! SEE YA SOON!
SUDDENLY, THE LIGHTS WENT OUT--EXACTLY AS I HAD PLANNED...
RIGHT ON TIME! NOW TO GET OUTA HERE!
HEY--WHERE'D KANE GO?!
STOP HIM! HE'S GETTING AWAY!
I BOLTED THE DOOR AND RAN ACROSS THE ROOM TO THE VENTILATOR...
LUCKY BREAK, MY OLD CELLMATE BECOMING A TRUSTY! HE WAS ABLE TO GET IN HERE TO UNSCREW THIS VENT FOR ME!
IN A LITTLE WHILE I'LL BE OUTSIDE THE BUILDING!
KEEP LOOKING! HE MUST BE AROUND HERE SOME PLACE!
RRRRR
RR!
R
GOTTA GET OVER TO THE WALL! THE ROPE IS THERE!
I RAN FAST AND SURE, AND SECONDS LATER...
RRRRRRRR
JUST A LITTLE BIT MORE...!
FINALLY, I WAS OUT, AND HEADING SOUTH ON THE HIGHWAY...
YESSIR--WHEN JOE PLANS SOMETHING, HE PLANS IT **RIGHT!** NOW TO GET TO THAT OLD CARNIVAL JUST OUTSIDE SMITHVILLE!
2

AN HOUR LATER I REACHED THE CARNIVAL GROUNDS...
CHARLIE SAID HE'D MEET ME IN THE HOUSE OF MYSTERY! THAT LOOKS LIKE THE PLACE OVER THERE!
HE SAID HE'D TAKE ME TO A HIDE-OUT WHERE I CAN LAY LOW TILL THIS BLOWS OVER! THEN WE'LL GO BACK INTO BUSINESS AGAIN--PULLING JOBS, JUST LIKE WE DID BEFORE!
HEY, CHARLIE--IT'S ME, JOE! ARE YOU IN HERE?
NO ANSWER! GUESS HE DIDN'T GET HERE YET!
BOY, LOOK AT THIS STUFF! THINGS MUST'VE BEEN PRETTY RUGGED IN THE OLD DAYS!
CHARLIE OUGHTTA BE HOME 'MOST ANY MINUTE! BUT UNTIL HE GETS HERE, THIS MAKES A GREAT HIDE-OUT!
EX
HEY! WHAT'S THAT OVER THERE?! LOOKS LIKE WAX DUMMIES!
3

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

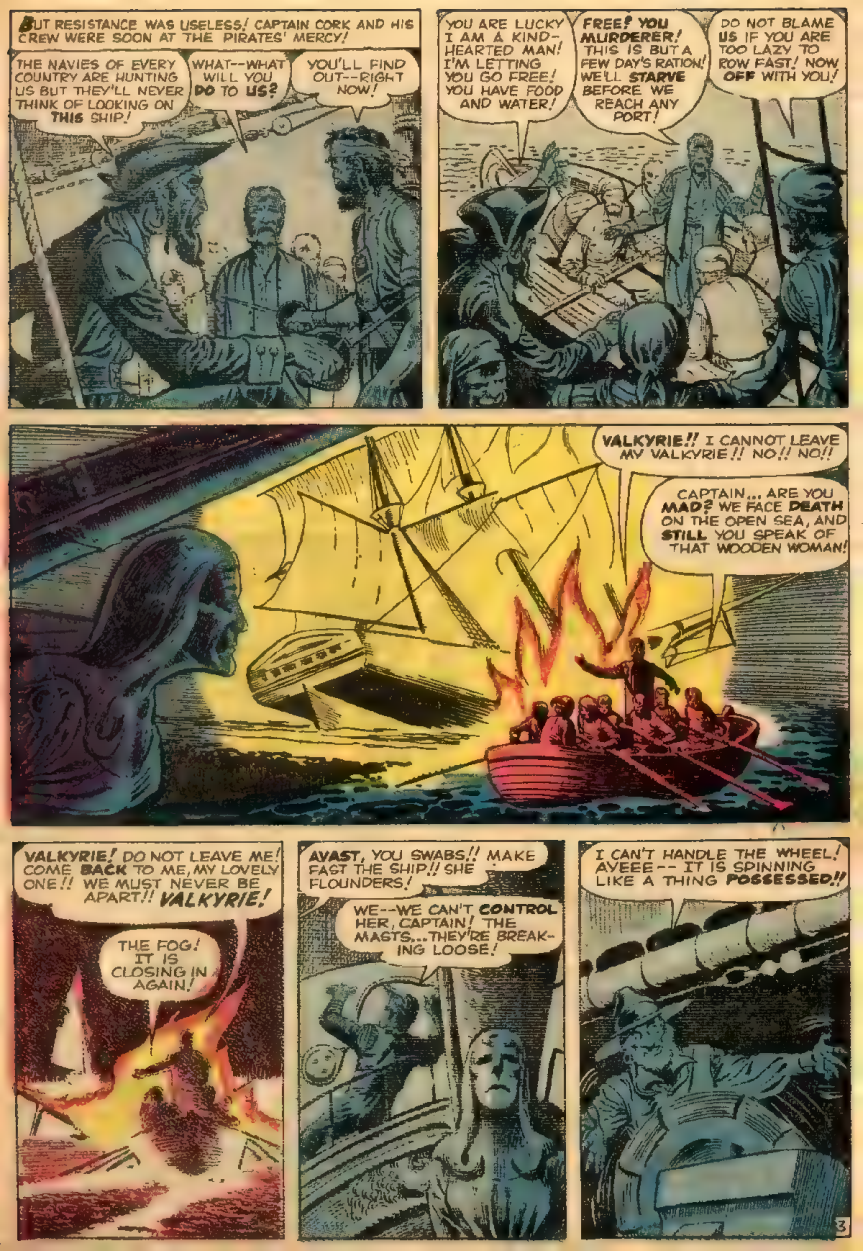
THEY-- THEY DON'T LOOK DEAD ENOUGH TO SUIT ME!
WONDER WHAT'S OVER THERE? OOPS --I HIT SOMETHING!
HA HA HA HA
I--I MUSTA STARTED THESE THINGS GOING! MAN, WHATTA WEIRD PLACE! I SURE WISH CHARLIE WOULD SHOW UP! I HAD ENOUGH OF THIS PLACE!
HE HE HO
SUDDENLY, I TOOK ANOTHER STEP--AND FELT THE FLOOR GIVE WAY UNDER ME!
OHHH!-
I SLID DOWN INTO ANOTHER ROOM--A ROOM OF MIRRORS!
THIS STUFF IS FOR KIDS! HOPE I CAN FIND MY WAY OUTA HERE!
I FOUND A PASSAGEWAY AND ENTERED IT! I WALKED ALONG UNTIL--
THERE'S SOMETHING HERE! I CAN FEEL IT-- IT'S BIG!

(WHEW!) JUST A STUFFED GORILLA!!
I RAN DOWN THE REST OF THE PASSAGE WAY THAT LED INTO ANOTHER ROOM...
WOW! THAT OVERSIZED GORILLA GAVE ME A SCARE! I'LL REST IN HERE AWHILE... TILL CHARLIE ARRIVES!
I--I WONDER WHAT THIS ROOM IS SUPPOSED TO BE ?
THE MINUTES CREPT BY, AS I SAT WAITING FOR CHARLIE... A STRANGE FEELING OF DREAD CREEPING OVER ME! AND THEN...
CHARLIE--IS THAT YOU?
AH, THERE YOU ARE! YOU SURE TOOK LONG ENOUGH GETTING HERE! SAY, THAT'S A GREAT OUTFIT YOU HAVE ON! FITS RIGHT IN WITH THIS PLACE!
WELL, LET'S GET OUTA HERE! I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THIS HORROR HOUSE! IT'S GIVING ME THE CREEPS!
PUT THIS ON...
EX
YEAH... GOOD IDEA TO HAVE A DISGUISE TILL I REACH THE HIDE-OUT!
5

OKAY, CHARLIE... YOU LEAD THE WAY!
IT WON'T BE LONG BEFORE JOE KANE'S BACK IN BUSINESS! BUT IT'S FUNNY, I SUDDENLY GOT A FEELING...
--A FEELING THAT THIS AIN'T THE WAY I PLANNED IT! YOU--YOU DON'T LOOK ENOUGH LIKE CHARLIE! IN FACT --WAIT! WHY ARE WE WALKING INTO THIS BLACK TUNNEL?? WHY IS IT GETTING SO HOT NOW? AND--AND IF YOU AIN'T CHARLIE, WHY WERE YOU EXPECTING ME? WHO ARE YOU? THE HEAT! WHY IS IT SO HOT?
WELL, CHIEF, WE'VE SEARCHED THIS CARNIVAL FROM TOP TO BOTTOM AND WE HAVEN'T FOUND KANE!
I DON'T GET IT! WE WERE ONLY SECONDS BEHIND HIM WHEN HE STOPPED HERE! HE COULDN'T HAVE ESCAPED US!
HEY, CHIEF--LOOK WHO I FOUND UP THE ROAD, TRYING TO CHANGE A FLAT TIRE! CHARLIE (THE PUNK) JORDON!
I WAS COMIN' HERE TO MEET JOE KANE! HE'S WAITING FOR ME IN THE MYSTERY HOUSE!
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! WE'VE GONE THRU THE HOUSE OF MYSTERY WITH A FINE TOOTH-COMB AND THERE'S NO SIGN OF KANE OR ANYONE ELSE!
MAYBE HE SNUCK OUTA THERE... WITHOUT YOU GUYS SEEING HIM!
NO! WE'VE HAD THE PLACE SURROUNDED FOR AN HOUR! NOTHING COULD'VE GOTTEN OUT OF THAT PLACE WITHOUT OUR SEEING IT! AT LEAST NOTHING THAT WAS--HUMAN...!
MYST
HOU
IN HERE YOU WILL MEET YOUR TRUE FATE!! DO YOU DARE TO ENTER?
THE END
6

THE REVENGE OF THE WOODEN WOMAN

THIS IS THE FANTASTIC TALE OF A MAN WHO LOVED A WOMAN! A WOMAN MADE OF...WOOD!
THERE GOES CAPTAIN CORK WITH MORE POLISH! YOU KNOW WHAT FOR, DON'T YE?
AYE! FOR THE SAME THING HE DOES EVERY TIME HE'S IN PORT!
AT LEAST ONCE A DAY HE POLISHES THAT FIGUREHEAD ON HIS SCHOONER! HE EVEN TALKS TO IT!
YOU'RE LOOKING A BIT DULL TODAY, VALKYRIE, BUT A LITTLE POLISH WILL BRIGHTEN YOU UP!
I COULD SWEAR THAT YEARS AGO WHEN THE CAPTAIN TOOK COMMAND OF THE SCHOONER, THE FIGUREHEAD WAS A YOUNG MAIDEN!
AYE! AND IT'S SAID HE PUT HER ON THE SHIP HIMSELF!
THE CAPTAIN'S A GOOD SEAMAN...BUT HE'S A STRANGE ONE!
WE HAVE COME A LONG WAY TOGETHER, MY VALKYRIE! THROUGH FOUL WEATHER AND ROUGH SEAS YOU HAVE STEERED ME SAFELY--AND WE HAVE BEEN HAPPY! NOW YOU LOOK SAD--TROUBLED! AS THOUGH YOU KNOW THE FUTURE HOLDS SOMETHING TERRIBLE IN STORE!
SOMEHOW, I DREAD THIS VOYAGE, VALKYRIE! I, TOO, FEEL SOMETHING DREAD AWAITS US!
A WEEK LATER AS THE SHIP MOVED THROUGH A THICK, LINGERING FOG...
WHY DO YOU SHUDDER SO, VALKYRIE?? WHAT AWAITS US THIS NIGHT??
SILENTLY, STEALTHILY, WITHOUT WARNING, SINISTER FIGURES STOLE OVER THE SIDE OF THE SHIP, AND...
PIRATES! ALL HANDS TO ARMS!


BUT RESISTANCE WAS USELESS! CAPTAIN CORK AND HIS CREW WERE SOON AT THE PIRATES' MERCY!
THE NAVIES OF EVERY COUNTRY ARE HUNTING US BUT THEY'LL NEVER THINK OF LOOKING ON THIS SHIP!
WHAT--WHAT WILL YOU DO TO US?
YOU'LL FIND OUT--RIGHT NOW!
YOU ARE LUCKY I AM A KIND-HEARTED MAN! I'M LETTING YOU GO FREE! YOU HAVE FOOD AND WATER!
FREE? YOU MURDERER! THIS IS BUT A FEW DAY'S RATION! WE'LL STARVE BEFORE WE REACH ANY PORT!
DO NOT BLAME US IF YOU ARE TOO LAZY TO ROW FAST! NOW OFF WITH YOU!
VALKYRIE!! I CANNOT LEAVE MY VALKYRIE!! NO!! NO!!
CAPTAIN... ARE YOU MAD? WE FACE DEATH ON THE OPEN SEA, AND STILL YOU SPEAK OF THAT WOODEN WOMAN!
VALKYRIE! DO NOT LEAVE ME! COME BACK TO ME, MY LOVELY ONE!! WE MUST NEVER BE APART!! VALKYRIE!
THE FOG! IT IS CLOSING IN AGAIN!
AVAST, YOU SWABS!! MAKE FAST THE SHIP!! SHE FLOUNDERS!
WE--WE CAN'T CONTROL HER, CAPTAIN! THE MAGTS... THEY'RE BREAKING LOOSE!
I CAN'T HANDLE THE WHEEL! AYEEE -- IT IS SPINNING LIKE A THING POSSESSED!!
3

ALL THRU THE NIGHT, THE PIRATES BATTLED THE STRANGE SHIP! AT DAWN, THE FOG LIFTED, AND THERE ON THE HORIZON...
A STORM! TURN THE SHIP! WE MUST AVOID IT!
THE WHEEL WON'T TURN!! I CAN'T MOVE IT!
LOOK! IT IS MADNESS! THE SHIP IS TURNING BY ITSELF! IT IS HEADING INTO THE STORM!
TURN HER!! TURN HER OR YOU'LL ANSWER WITH YOUR LIFE!!
WE CANNOT!!
IT IS AS THOUGH SOME MYSTIC FORCE IS GUIDING THE SHIP!! AS THOUGH IT IS UNDER--A SPELL!
UP AHEAD!! A REEF! ROCKS! WE'LL BE DASHED TO BITS IF WE DON'T CHANGE COURSE!
THE SHIP IS A DEMON! IT IS FIGHTING THE SEA TO CRASH UPON THOSE ROCKS! IT'S A KILLER SHIP!!
ABANDON SHIP!!
EVERY MAN FOR HIMSELF!!
CRRRASH!
4

LONG, TORTUROUS MINUTES LATER...
WE WERE ONLY ABLE TO SALVAGE ENOUGH RATIONS TO LAST FOR A FEW DAYS! THEN, WE'LL STARVE!-- OR, IF WE ARE RESCUED, WE FACE PRISON! THERE IS NO ESCAPE!
WHAT IRONY! WE ARE STRANDED ON THIS DESERT ISLE--IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE! LEFT WITH NO HOPE... EVEN AS OUR VICTIMS WERE!
BUT TIME PASSED, AND, MANY MILES AWAY...
LOOK, CAPTAIN! A FIGURE-HEAD! ALL BUT SMASHED TO BITS--AND YET, STILL AFLOAT! SHE--SHE SEEMS TO BECKON US!
I KNOW HER! THERE IS ONLY ONE SUCH! IT IS VALKYRIE! FROM THE PROUD SHIP OF CAPTAIN CORK!
STRANGE! SHE'S KEEPING AHEAD OF US! SHE'S LEADING US ON! BUT HOW? HOW CAN SHE FLOAT AGAINST THE CURRENT?
FOR YEARS I HAVE HEARD LEGENDS ABOUT VALKYRIE... ABOUT THE LOVE CAPTAIN CORK HAD FOR HER!
SHE WAS FASHIONED IN THE IMAGE OF HIS WIFE--WHOM HE LOVED MORE THAN LIFE--AND WHO DIED MANY YEARS AGO!!
CAPTAIN!! LOOK! YONDER...
CAPTAIN CORK! A NAVY FRIGATE! WE'RE SAVED!
VALKYRIE! MY VALKYRIE! YOU LED THEM TO ME!
SAVED!! THE WOODEN WOMAN SAVED US ALL!
BUT, LOOK!! SHE'S SINKING! VALKYRIE'S SINKING!
GO, MY VALKYRIE! TO THE REST YOU NEED! THE REST YOU DESERVE! YOU HAVE EARNED YOUR REWARD, MY LOVE! FAREWELL, MY VALKYRIE!
NO! IT CAN'T BE! BUT LOOK! THERE IS A--SMILE ON HER FACE!
5
AND THUS ENDS THE TALE OF THE MAN, AND THE WOODEN WOMAN! IT IS MERELY ONE OF THE COUNTLESS LEGENDS OF THE SEA... BUT WHO CAN SAY IT NEVER HAPPENED? WHO CAN SAY?!
THE END

space ship. He sees me following him and heads down, straight down with me hot on his tail. After he hits 3,000 feet, something happens to his ship and he goes into a spin. It's curtains for him, I know that. He crashes, and I pull in around the wreckage.

"The pilot, a queer looking guy was thrown clear of the wreckage and somehow is still alive. I'm heading for him to see if I can help him.

"Go back, you fool!" he yells and I'm surprised that he can speak English. This I gotta see.

I pick him up as well as I can, but I see it won't be long before he's done. He tells me a stranger story than I'm telling you now.

"He's from a planet called Typra, a planet composed almost entirely of Radium. But something happens to him when he hits the earth's atmosphere. For he isn't hurt, but death is already settling on his features.

"He told me his body was now completely radioactive, and that I was a doomed man for coming so near. But what could I do, Mac? The guy was hurt."

I guess my disbelief spreads to my face because the guy says.

"You too, eh? I guess it does sound nuts. That's what the big boys thought when I told them about it. They stuck me in front of a bunch of psychiatrists who clucked their tongues and looked wise and told me I was suffering from hallucinations. Maybe so, but I *saw* this man. And when he died, there was a brilliant circle of weird green light all about him. It almost hurt the eyes. This I didn't imagine, I know."

"That's about all there is to the story."

I sat there swishing my beer around when it suddenly dawned on me.

"Hey! Wait a minute! If these rays or what they are affected you and your body absorbed them, then you're giving them

off and *my* body is absorbing them!"

"That's right," he said softly. "If nobody will believe me, what am I going to do. But soon you *will* believe me, and then there'll be *two* of us trying to convince the world. Then four ad infinitum if they won't lessen."

"You're mad!" I said, angry at him and myself for letting him worry me with his hokum about a space ship and a guy from another planet. "You're stark, raving mad!"

He nodded absently and got up from my table, his drink hardly touched.

"It takes a while to find out, about the rays, Mac. And you'll get used to yourself glowing green in darkness. Me, my time's about up. I had to have someone to carry on where I left off. Don't you think, Mac?"

His eyes were two blazing coals hid deep in skeletal sockets, now. He was insane. Nuts. He had to be.

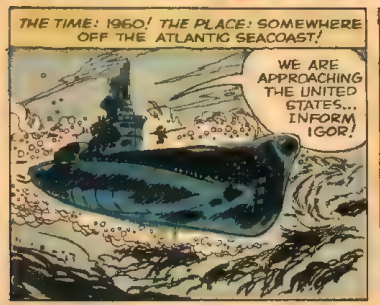
And then his harsh features relaxed, the lines of his face disappeared and he crumpled loosely to the floor. Barney and a couple of other guys rush over. Me, I got out of there before the cops arrived.

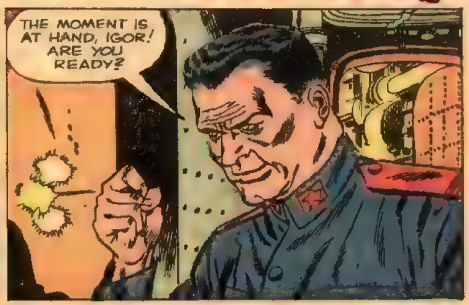
I hadn't forgotten about this strange little man the next morning, but I did feel a little better, as I sat down to read the evening paper. It struck me like being clubbed across the pit of the stomach. The headlines screamed:

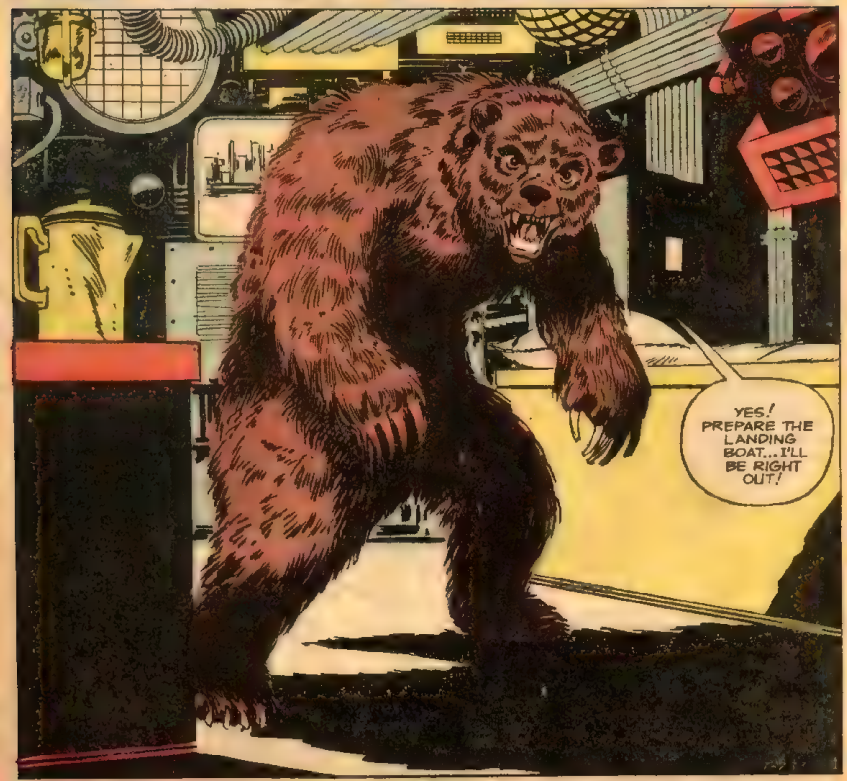
DEATH OF GREEN MAN MYSTERY. It went on to say how a mysterious circle of brilliant green light surrounded the man's body. A weird green light, like one, some writer said, from another planet. He didn't know how right he was.

THE END A-189

I AM THE BEAST-MAN!







AS I REMOVED THE BEAR SUIT I FELT TENSE AND COLD... FOR I, IGOR GROZICK, WAS EMBARKING ON THE STRANGEST AND MOST IMPORTANT SPY MISSION OF ALL TIME...
MOMENTS LATER, I LEFT THE SUB...
THE COMMUNIST WORLD DEPENDS ON YOU, IGOR! DO NOT FAIL US!
HAVE NO FEAR, COMRADES... I WILL SUCCEED!
WHEN I REACHED SHORE, I DESTROYED THE LANDING BOAT! THEN I HEADED INLAND...
THE AMERICANS ARE POWERFUL! WE CANNOT RISK ATTACKING THEM WITH MISSILES OR ATOMIC WEAPONS! BUT WITH THIS SIMPLE BEAR DISGUISE WE WILL STRIKE THEM A CRUSHING BLOW!
BY MORNING, I WAS AT MY DESTINATION--THE ATOMIC TESTING AREA...
IN A FEW MINUTES THE AMERICANS WILL DETONATE A NEW ATOMIC BOMB, AND THAT WILL GIVE US THE CHANCE WE WANT--THE CHANCE TO MAKE THEM THE LAUGHING STOCK OF THE WORLD!
SECONDS PASSED, THEN CAME THE COUNT-DOWN, AND FINALLY--
WHEN THE CALM OF DAY RETURNED, SCIENTISTS ENTERED THE RADIOACTIVE AREA! NOW IT WAS TIME FOR ME--FOR MY PLAN!
NOT MUCH ALPHA RADIATION THIS TIME!
NO...BUT LOTS OF GAMMA!
YOU... MAN...
DID I IMAGINE IT, OR DID THIS BEAR SAY SOMETHING?!
YOU... MAN... I... AM... BEAR!
H-HE SPOKE!! HE REALLY TALKS!! HOLY SMOKE! AN ANIMAL THAT CAN TALK!
2

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN ABLE TO SPEAK? WERE YOU BORN THIS WAY?
SINCE EXPLOSION, I AM ABLE TO THINK... TO TALK... LIKE MAN!
IT WAS THE FALL-OUT! THE RADIATION --IT'S CREATED AN ATOMIC MUTATION!
THIS IS THE MOST INCREDIBLE THING THAT'S EVER HAPPENED!
FOOL! DECADENT CAPITALISTIC FOOLS! YOU BELIEVE ANY-THING!
AND THEN IT BEGAN... FIRST I WAS TAKEN TO A HOSPITAL, WHERE I WAS ALMOST FOUND OUT...
NO EXAMINATION!... I HAVE RIGHTS LIKE MAN! NO POKING AND LOOKING ...NO EXAMINATION!
BUT WE MIGHT LEARN SO MUCH! IF ONLY YOU'LL CONSENT!
LET'S TIE HIM DOWN! WE'LL EXAMINE HIM WHETHER HE WANTS IT OR NOT!
NO! WE'VE NO LEGAL RIGHT TO SUBJECT THIS BEAR TO ANYTHING HE DOESN'T WANT, NOW THAT HE HAS INTELLIGENCE!
WILL YOU AT LEAST LET US GIVE YOU SOME MENTALITY TESTS?
YES!
AND SO...
NINETY-SIX!
HOW MUCH IS TWELVE TIMES EIGHT?
HE'S ANSWERED EVERY QUESTION! IT'S UNBELIEVABLE!
IN THE MEANTIME...
EXTRA! ATOMIC EXPLOSION GIVES BEAR HUMAN MIND! READ ALL ABOUT IT!
3

ONLY IN A SECRET ROOM BEHIND THE IRON CURTAIN WAS THE TRUTH REALLY KNOWN!
OUR PLAN IS WORKING! THE AMERICANS HAVE SWALLOWED THE BAIT!
SOON IGOR WILL REVEAL HIMSELF! THE WORLD WILL SEE THAT THE AMERICANS HAVE BEEN STUPID AND GULLIBLE! THEY WILL LOSE THE RESPECT OF ALL OTHER NATIONS!
MEANWHILE, I ALLOWED THE MUTANT-BEAR FRAUD TO GROW LARGER AND LARGER...
BEFORE CONCLUDING, I WOULD LIKE TO SAY A FEW WORDS ABOUT HIBERNATION!
I EVEN MADE TELEVISION APPEARANCES...
IS IT TRUE THAT ANIMALS HAVE THEIR OWN LANGUAGE TO COMMUNICATE AMONG THEMSELVES?
YES...QUITE TRUE!
SOON, THE BEAST-MAN BECAME AN OBJECT OF CONTROVERSY...
AND I TELL YOU, IF WE HAD AN ARMY OF THINKING BEARS, WE COULD USE THEM TO FIGHT OUR WARS! NEVER AGAIN WOULD HUMANS HAVE TO BE SLAIN IN BATTLE!
NO! AN ARMY OF BEARS WOULD BE TOO DANGEROUS! THEY MIGHT TURN AND ATTACK US! WE WOULD END UP SERVING THEM!
THAT'S RIGHT! IF THEY HAD BRAINS LIKE US WE COULD NEVER TRUST THEM!
FOOLS! I HAVE TAKEN YOU IN COMPLETELY! AND NOW I'M BUILDING YOU UP FOR THE BIG FALL! THE MORE YOU BELIEVE, THE BIGGER WILL BE YOUR SHAME WHEN THE TRUTH BECOMES KNOWN!
4

FINALLY THE TIME CAME! I DECIDED TO REVEAL MYSELF!
I HAVE CALLED YOU ALL HERE BECAUSE I HAVE SOMETHING TO SHOW YOU... SOMETHING THAT WILL INTEREST YOU GREATLY! HA! HA! HA!
FORGIVE ME FOR LAUGHING... BUT I AM GOING INTO THIS OTHER ROOM FOR A MOMENT... AND WHEN I RETURN, YOU WILL SEE THE REASON FOR MY HUMOR!
I ENTERED THE BEDROOM, SHUT THE DOOR, AND COULD SCARCELY CONTAIN MY EXCITEMENT...
WAIT'LL THEY LEARN THE TRUTH! HA! HA! WAIT TILL THEY SEE I'M JUST A MAN WEARING A COSTUME!
THIS HOAX WILL DO MORE DAMAGE TO THE UNITED STATES THAN A HUNDRED ATOMIC BOMBS COULD HAVE DONE! AND IT WILL ALL BE DUE TO ME, IGOR GROZICK--MASTER SPY!
THEN, FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE NUCLEAR EXPLOSION, I REMOVED MY DISGUISE! I STARTED TO WALK TOWARD THE DOOR! THERE WAS A MIRROR... I TURNED AND LOOKED INTO IT...
NO! NO!! IT CAN'T BE! IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
BUT I KNEW IT WASN'T IMPOSSIBLE! WITH ATOMIC RADIATION ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE, AND I WAS THE LIVING PROOF! FOR THAT FALL-OUT HADN'T GIVEN A BEAR THE MIND OF A MAN, BUT IT HAD GIVEN A MAN ...THE BODY OF A BEAR!
I'VE BEEN CHANGED! I'M REALLY A BEAR! WHAT HAPPENS NOW? WHAT HAPPENS NOW??
THE END
5